

OCTOBER 23, 2022

ST. GEORGE GREEK ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE DESERT

74-109 Larrea Street

Palm Desert, California 92260

Website: www.go-stgeorge.org

Email: pdsaintgeorge@gmail.com



Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4755

Palm Desert,

CA.92261

Tel: (760) 568-9901

or: (760) 880-5869

– Fr. Theodore Pantels,
Proistamenos (Pastor)

– Deacon Euthym Kon-
taxis, M.D.

**Holy Communion Or-
der**

1. Please remain standing while following the directions of our ushers.
2. Ladies, kindly remove lipstick before receiving.
3. When receiving Holy Communion, make the Sign of the Cross, state your name (baptismal name), and naturally receive as if being fed.
4. Non-Orthodox Christians may not receive Holy Communion, but they may receive the Holy Bread at the end of the service.
5. All Orthodox Christians must be spiritually prepared to receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion. Please see the priest if you have any questions.

THE LADDER

PRAYER FOR READING HOLY SCRIPTURES

"Shine within our hearts, loving Master, the pure light of Your divine knowledge and open the eyes of our minds that we may comprehend the message of Your Gospel. Instill in us, also, reverence for Your blessed commandments, so that having conquered sinful desires, we may pursue a spiritual life, thinking and doing all these things that are pleasing to You. For You are the Light of our souls and bodies and to You we give glory together with Your Father Who is without beginning and Your all-holy, good, and life-giving Spirit, now and forever and to the ages of ages. Amen."

EPISTLE - Galatians 1:11-19

Brethren, I would have you know that the gospel which was preached by me is not man's gospel. For I did not receive it from man, nor was I taught it, but it came through a revelation of Jesus Christ. For you have heard of my former life in Judaism, how I persecuted the church of God violently and tried to destroy it; and I advanced in Judaism beyond many of my own age among my people, so extremely zealous was I for the traditions of my fathers. But when he who had set me apart before I was born, and had called me through his grace, was pleased to reveal his Son to me, in order that I might preach him among the Gentiles, I did not confer with flesh and blood, nor did I go up to Jerusalem to those who were apostles before me, but I went away into Arabia; and again I returned to Damascus. Then after three years I went up to Jerusalem to visit Cephas, and remained with him fifteen days. But I saw none of the other apostles except James the Lord's brother.

GOSPEL - St. Luke 8:26-39

At that time, as Jesus arrived at the country of the Gadarenes, there met him a man from the city who had demons; for a long time he had worn no clothes and he lived not in a house but among the tombs. When he saw Jesus, he cried out and fell down before him, and said with a loud voice, "What have you to do with me, Jesus, Son of the Most High God? I beseech you,

do not torment me." For he had commanded the unclean spirit to come out of the man. (For many a time it had seized him; he was kept under guard, and bound with chains and fetters, but he broke the bonds and was driven by the demon into the desert.) Jesus then asked him, "What is your name?" And he said, "Legion"; for many demons had entered him. And they begged him not to command them to depart into the abyss. Now a large herd of swine was feeding there on the hillside; and they begged him to let them enter these. So he gave them leave. Then the demons came out of the man and entered the swine, and the herd rushed down the steep bank into the lake and were drowned. When the herdsmen saw what happened, they fled, and told it in the city and in the country. Then people went out to see what had happened, and they came to Jesus, and found the man from whom the demons had gone, sitting at the feet of Jesus, clothed and in his right mind; and they were afraid. And those who had seen it told them how he who had been possessed with demons was healed. Then all the people of the surrounding country of the Gadarenes asked him to depart from them; for they were seized with great fear; so he got into the boat and returned. The man from whom the demons had gone begged that he might be with him; but he sent him away, saying, "Return to your home, and declare how much God has done for you." And he went away, proclaiming throughout the whole city how much Jesus had done for him.

TODAY IS THE FEAST DAY OF ST. JAMES THE APOSTLE,

Liturgical Notes for Today

At the Entrance of the Gospel: **1) Entrance Hymn:** *"When You descended to death, O Immortal Life, then the Light of Your Divinity destroyed Hades; when You raised the dead from the depths of darkness, all the heavenly powers cried out: 'Glory to You, O Christ our God, the Giver of Life.'/Ότε Κατηλθες...; 2)"* *As the Lord's disciple, O righteous one, you received the Gospel. As martyr, you have unwavering courage. As our Lord's brother, you have forthrightness. As hierarch, intercession. Intercede with Christ our God that He may save our souls."/ Ως του Κυριου Μαθητης...;3) Hymn for St. George. 4) Kontakion Hymn:* *"Champion of Christians put not to shame, advocate before the Maker always steadfast, do not spurn sinners' voices raised in prayer. In your goodness respond to bring help to us who devoutly petition you. Hasten you intercession and urgently make entreaty; for you unfailingly defend, Theotokos, those who honor you."/Προστασια των Χριστιανων...*

HOW DOES SATAN DECEIVE US?

In today's Gospel, we heard that Christ drove out demons from a man, who said his name was "Legion," for many demons had gained possession of him. How can such a thing happen? The Orthodox Christian spiritual guide for many of our brother Orthodox faithful in Romania, Elder Cleopa, wrote a book (available on Kindle), entitled, *"How Does Satan Deceive People?"* It is similar to C.S. Lewis', *The Screwtape Letters*.

There are two underlying themes here: 1) Satan tricks us into believing that there is no such thing as sin -- that we are entitled to do things contrary to God's love. Even if we do believe that we commit any sins, Satan dupes us into believing that they are of no real consequence. As a result, so-called "little sins" add up to form personality traits -- habits that become engrained into our souls, making us do things as part of our "second nature." 2) He convinces us that there is no need to confess our sins and seek the Prayers of Forgiveness, which are read by the priest. But, by not seeking forgiveness and God's wisdom through prayer, oddly, Satan torments us with feelings of guilt and unworthiness. In such a state, we can fall into despair and even revolt against God. For many, drugs and alcohol help to "escape" such despair until they take hold in the form of addiction.

This is how we can find ourselves possessed by Satan, even though it is not as dramatic as in the case of "Legion." Let us turn to Christ our God Who is eager to forgive us and Who is ready and more than able to help us throughout our lives by expelling our demons, purifying our souls, and granting us His Wisdom.
+FR. THEODORE

Στη σημερινή Ευαγγελική περικοπή, ακούσαμε ότι ο Χριστός έδιωξε τους δαίμονες από έναν άνθρωπο, ο οποίος έλεγε ότι το όνομά του ήταν «Λεγεώνα», γιατί πολλοί δαίμονες τον είχαν κυριεύσει.

Υπάρχουν δύο υποκείμενα θέματα εδώ: 1) Ο Σατανάς μας ξεγελάει ώστε να πιστεύουμε ότι δεν υπάρχει τέτοιο πράγμα όπως η αμαρτία -- ότι έχουμε το δικαίωμα να κάνουμε πράγματα που αντιβαίνουν στην αγάπη του Θεού. Ακόμα κι αν πιστεύουμε ότι υπάρχουν αμαρτίες που διαπράττουμε, ο Σατανάς μας εξαπατά να πιστεύουμε ότι δεν έχουν πραγματική συνέπεια. Ως αποτέλεσμα, οι «μικρές μας αμαρτίες» αθροίζονται για να σχηματίσουν χαρακτηριστικά προσωπικότητας -- συνήθειες που εδραιώνονται στην ψυχή μας, αναγκάζοντάς μας να κάνουμε πράγματα ως εκ της «δεύτερης φύσεώς» μας. 2) Μας πείθει ότι δεν υπάρχει ανάγκη να εξομολογηθούμε τις αμαρτίες μας και να αναζητήσουμε τις προσευχές της Εκκλησίας βάζοντας τον ιερέα να διαβάσει τις Προσευχές της Συγχωρήσεως. Αλλά, μη ζητώντας συγχώρεση και τη σοφία του Θεού μέσω της προσευχής, παραδόξως, ο Σατανάς μας βασανίζει με αισθήματα ενοχής και αναξιοσύνης. Σε μια τέτοια κατάσταση, είναι δυνατό, οι άνθρωποι να μπουν στον πειρασμό να επαναστατήσουν ενάντια στον Θεό, ενώ εξακολουθούμε να πέφτουμε σε απόγνωση. Για πολλούς, τα ναρκωτικά και το αλκοόλ βοηθούν να «ξεφύγουμε» από την απελπισία, μέχρι που να πάρουν τη μορφή εθισμού.

Έτσι μπορούμε να βρεθούμε κυριευμένοι από τον Σατανά, παρόλο που δεν είναι τόσο δραματικό όσο στην περίπτωση της σημερινής Ευαγγελικής περικοπής. Ας παρακαλέσουμε τον Θεό, ο Οποίος είναι πρόθυμος να μας συγχωρήσει και να μας βοηθήσει σε όλη μας τη ζωή.
+Ο ΠΑΤΗΡ ΘΕΟΔΩΡΟΣ

WEEKDAY CALENDAR

Tuesday, October 25th.....Bible Study - 10:00 a.m.
Wednesday, October 26th.....ST. DEMETRIOS THE MARTYR
Orthros - 8:30 a.m. / Divine Liturgy -9:30 a.m.

UPCOMING PARISH EVENTS

PROJECT MEXICO - ST. INNOCENT ORPHANAGE -- Today, we are blessed to have with us **Fr. Nicholas Andrewchow**, the Executive Director of **Project Mexico - St. Innocent Orphanage**, which is a ministry under the auspices of our Holy Greek Orthodox Archdiocese. He will present a short program sharing with us the ministry of Project Mexico for the glory of God.

PHILOPTOCHOS "SOCK-TOBER" Drive - Today is the last day for donations of socks to the Philoptochos "new socks" drive to benefit the homeless. Thank you to all who donated so far.

GREEK FOLK DANCE LESSONS - A brief meeting will be beheld today following the celebration of the Divine Liturgy with parents and children who are interested in joining Greek Folk Lessons. Please meet today with our instructor, **Angeliki Pagoulatos**.

PHILOPTOCHOS BAKING - From this Tuesday, November 1st (following the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy in commemoration of Sts. Cosmas and Damian**) to Friday, November 4th, Philoptochos members are asked to help begin baking for the Annual **Philoptochos Christmas Bake Sale**, which will be held in December.

WELCOME BACK TO THE DESERT COCKTAIL RECEPTION -- **Friday, November 4, 2022. from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.** It's not just for Philoptochos members. All parishioners are welcome! Please join us for this Greek-themed event! RSVP due by 11/1/22 via text, phone or email to: (714) 875-4661; email: r.s.fleminglatkovic@gmail.com. See enclosed flyer.

PAN-ORTHODOX CELEBRATION OF THE DIVINE LITURGY – In two weeks, Sunday, November 6, 2022 the **Sts. Michael and Gabriel Romanian Orthodox parishioners from Palm Springs** will be joining us for the celebration of the **Divine Liturgy**. Their fundraiser for construction of their new church edifice on Vella Rd. in Palm Springs will be held in our St. George parish hall.

ST. GEORGE COMMUNITY CHRISTMAS CARD - Enclosed is a "**St. George Community Christmas Card Participation Form.**" Deadline for submission is November 25th.

ST. GEORGE PARISH FALL SPIRITUAL RETREAT – Please reserve **Saturday, November 12, 2022** to join in our St. George Parish Fall Retreat. The theme is: "Understanding the Divine Liturgy." The day will begin at 10:00 a.m. and conclude at 3:00 p.m., with a superb lunch being served for all in attendance....Our speaker for our Fall Retreat is Dr. Eve Tibbs. Dr. Tibbs received her PhD from Fuller Theological Seminary and she is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary. She just recently authored a most educational book about our Greek Orthodox Faith, entitled, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology*. In addition, Eve Tibbs is the director of our Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry. See enclosed flyer.

PHILOPTOCHOS CHRISTMAS PARTY - **December 10, 2022** at the **Sun City Club House, 38180 Del Webb Boulevard** -- **11:30 a.m.** See enclosed flyer.

CONGRATULATIONS ... To **Michael Hallinan**, who is now a licensed health insurance agent for Compass Health Consultants at (442) 228-2343 (email: mhallinan@myhst.com), serving to help lower health insurance premiums and deductibles. We also congratulate his wife, **Elena "Olina" Hallinan**, for her license as an **Esthetician**, whose office is at True Serenity Skincare Spa, (760) 238-8899.



GREEK ORTHODOX ARCHDIOCESE OF AMERICA
ARCHEPISCOPAL ENCYCLICAL

Prot. No. 225/2022

**Archebiscopal Encyclical for
National Leadership 100 Sunday**

October 23, 2022

Unto ...the entirety of the Christ-named Plenitude of the Holy Archdiocese of America:

Come and let us all, and with sacred hymns magnify Iakovos, the first-enthroned luminary of the Church...
(Ode 9)

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This year, on the Sunday that we will celebrate the National Leadership 100 Sunday, we have the special blessing of commemorating the Feastday of the visionary hierarch whose dream it was to have a permanent endowment for Orthodoxy and Hellenism for our Archdiocese – the ever-memorable Archbishop Iakovos, the longest serving Archbishop of the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of America.

Like his namesake St. Iakovos, the Brother of God and First Bishop of Jerusalem, Archbishop Iakovos knew that “faith without works is dead” (James 2:26). He also knew the truth of the proverb: “Blessed is he who plants trees under whose shade he will never sit.” The vision of Archbishop Iakovos for the future of our Greek Orthodox Church was one of provision. He saw fruits that he would never taste, and he was generous with all his successors, of whom I count myself to be fortunate. For Leadership 100 has now gifted over seventy million dollars to the ministries of the Church since 1989 – just seven years before Archbishop Iakovos retired.

I pray that on this Sunday, October 23rd, when we commemorate the First-Enthroned of Jerusalem, the Great Iakovos the Ἀδελφότης, let us also remember our own great Iakovos, who was the First Hierarch of our sacred Archdiocese for thirty-seven years. His providential care for the Archdiocese inspired Leadership 100 – the single largest benefactor of the Church in the United States – with Hellenic College and Holy Cross Greek Orthodox School of Theology receiving the greatest largesse.

Leadership 100 is an organization that is of the Church, by the Church, and for the Church. We thank them for their contributions and their abundant generosity. Today, we single them out for special mention, but let us keep them in our hearts and prayers every day, as they strive to make possible all the ministries of enhancement and advancement of our Church through their stewardship of God’s blessings, and their own wise governance.

With paternal love in our Lord Jesus Christ,

† ELPIDOPHOROS
Archbishop of America

St. George Greek Orthodox Church

Fall Parish Retreat

Saturday, November 12, 2022

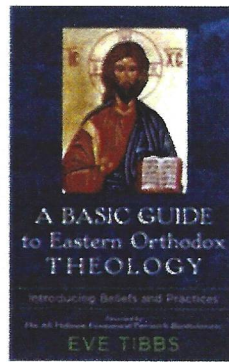
10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. (Luncheon included*)

OUR THEME FOR THE YEAR:
UNDERSTANDING THE DIVINE LITURGY

Our Speaker is Dr. Eve Tibbs

Dr. Tibbs is the celebrated author of the newly published book, *A Basic Guide to Eastern Orthodox Theology*.

Copies of Dr. Eve Tibbs' book will be available in our parish book store. In addition, Dr. Tibbs is the affiliate assistant professor of theology at Fuller Theological Seminary, and the director of our Metropolis of San Francisco Christian Education Ministry.



The Topics for the day:

- 1) "Why Do We Worship the Way We Do?"
- 2) "Understanding the Great Feasts Through Icons and Hymns"

Dr. Tibbs' presentations are fast-moving, interactive, visually interesting, and accessible!

St. George Greek Orthodox Church, 74-109 Larrea Street, Palm Desert, California 92260
Phone: (760) 568-9901

*Registration: \$10.00 payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church



***Welcome Back to the Desert
Cocktail Reception!***



*sponsored by The St. George Ladies Philoptochos Society
(this is a free will donation event)*

Friday, November 4th, 2022

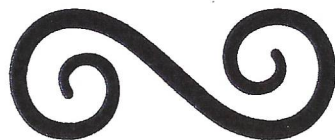
4:00 pm - 6:30 pm

St. George Church Hall



Join us for complimentary Greek appetizers!

*Refreshments including soft drinks, wine, &
beer!*

Greek music!



**RSVP by 11/1/22 via text or email to
(714) 875-4661**





Dear Parishioners,

Once again, our community of St George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert will be preparing a Parish Christmas Card. We are certain that all of you will want to participate in this very popular and meaningful Christmas Blessing.

Please join the many families of our parish in expressing Christmas Greetings to fellow members and friends by completing this form. A donation of \$20.00 should be enclosed along with this form and made payable to St. George Greek Orthodox Church of the Desert. You can mail it to 74109 Larrea St., Palm Desert, CA 92261 or give to Tina Veroulis in the office. We would appreciate the return of the form by November 25, 2022.

Please print your name, as you would like it to appear on the card on the line below. (PLEASE PRINT)

Name: _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Deadline: November 25, 2022

Philoptochos Christmas Party

12/10/22 11:30 AM

Sun City Clubhouse

38180 Del Webb Blvd, Palm Desert



Please Join Us! Bring a Friend!

Luncheon Price \$45.00 per person includes:

Appetizers, buffet luncheon with tri-tip steak & baked fish, salad, potatoes & rice pilaf, seasonal vegetables, & bread plus a surprise dessert along with a sheet cake. (coffee, iced tea & water included.) *Vegan or vegetarian meal option is available.

Cash Bar! Music! Hostess Gift! Raffle!

I am attending: (Name) _____

I am bringing a guest: (Name) _____

Total Number Attending: _____

Payment Type: (Cash) _____ Check _____

Total Payment Amount: _____

I prefer a: Vegan Meal/Vegetarian Meal (circle one)

***RSVP by December 4th**